

PTQ3695

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RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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NEA-01 SS-00 DSCC-00 /009W  
-----E8F4D9 012027Z /38

R 012024Z SEP 95  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7764  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BUENOS AIRES 005432

E.O. 12356: DECL: AUGUST 18, 2010  
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, PREL, PTER, PINR, IR, AR  
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MACKEY -- WRAP UP

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5703, (B) BUENOS AIRES 4915

1. (C) SUMMARY: INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS CORACH  
TOLD STAFFDEL MACKEY THAT THERE IS FRUSTRATION IN  
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ARGENTINA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER THE FAILURE TO SOLVE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 31 AUG 2020  
DATE/CASE ID: 13 MAY 2008 200601030

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THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND AMIA BOMBINGS. HE SAID THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS DOING ALL IT CAN AND HAS PROVIDED INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO WITH ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

THEY BELIEVE A LINK EXISTS WITH THE IRANIAN EMBASSY, POINTING TO EMBASSY "CULTURAL ATTACHE" RABBANI AS ESPECIALLY SUSPECT. THEY BELIEVE THAT CARLOS TELLELDIN, THE SOLE INCARCERATED SUSPECT, KNOWS MORE THAN HE IS TELLING, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE BOMBERS MAY HAVE KEPT HIM IN THE DARK. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL IS EXTENSIVE, POINTING TO MANY VISITS AND EXCHANGES. RELATIONS WITH IRAN SINCE THE BOMBINGS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED. MR. MACKEY INVITED ARGENTINA'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, RAUL GRANILLO OCAMPO, TO TESTIFY AT SEPTEMBER 28 HEARING. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) STAFFDEL MACKEY, JOHN MACKEY, ROGER NOREIGA, AND DANIEL RESTREPO, WAS IN BUENOS AIRES AUGUST 13 TO 16 TO GATHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOMB ATTACKS IN BUENOS AIRES AGAINST THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN 1992 AND THE ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA) IN 1994. STAFFDEL FOCUSED MOST OF ITS ATTENTION ON THE AMIA BOMBING. STAFFDEL MEMBERS SPOKE WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS, INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS

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CORACH, ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN  
MINISTRY OFFICIALS, AND NATIONAL CONGRESS DEPUTY  
MIGUEL ANGEL TOMA. THEY ALSO SPOKE WITH INVESTIGATING  
JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO, THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE AMIA  
CASE; JEWISH COMMUNITY

AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THREE OF THE  
VICTIMS OF THE 1994 AMIA BOMBING. REF A REPORTS ON  
CONVERSATIONS WITH JEWISH LEADERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.  
FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF OTHER CONVERSATIONS.

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INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH  
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3. (C) DCM EXPRESSED U.S. GOVERNMENT SATISFACTION WITH THE AUGUST 1 AND 2 TERRORISM CONFERENCE AND EXPLAINED STAFFDEL'S INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AMIA INVESTIGATION, TO MINISTER CORACH. HE INFORMED HIM OF PLANS TO HOLD A HEARING ON LATIN AMERICAN TERRORISM ON SEPTEMBER 28 BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC). CORACH SAID ARGENTINA'S GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN JUDGE GALEANO ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT HIS INVESTIGATION. ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HAD GOOD LUCK IN THE INVESTIGATION AND THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS ARE FRUSTRATED. THE COUNTRY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS NEED TO EXERCISE "CONTROL OVER THE SITUATION" (I.E., "LEADERSHIP") AND THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO FACE THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH "MATURITY." CORACH SAID HE HAD MET EARLIER THAT DAY WITH JEWISH [REDACTED] AND WAS OPEN TO MEETINGS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS. THIS IS A PROBLEM

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FOR ALL ARGENTINE SOCIETY AND SHOULD NOT BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ALONE. YES, A THIRD BOMBING COULD TAKE PLACE IN ARGENTINA, BUT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AS VULNERABLE TO A FOURTH, FIFTH, TENTH OR TWENTIETH ATTACK.

4. (C) ON THE ASUNCION SEVEN, CORACH SAID THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FOR FIVE

MONTHS HE WORKED WITH THE PARAGUAYAN INTERIOR MINISTER, URGING HIM NOT TO LET THEM GO. BUT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INDEPENDENT PROOF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MR. MACKEY

ASKED ABOUT CONTROLLING THE BORDER WITH PARAGUAY. CORACH SAID THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS LIMITED CONTROL OVER ITS BORDERS BUT PLANS TO INVITE BIDS FOR A NEW BORDER CONTROL SYSTEM, WITH NEW PASSPORTS AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS. PARAGUAY, BRAZIL, AND ARGENTINA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BUENOS AIRES 005432

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E.O. 12356: DECL: AUGUST 18, 2010  
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, PREL, PTER, PINR, IR, AR  
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MACKEY -- WRAP UP

WOULD SOON BE MEETING TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE  
PROBLEM IN AND AROUND CIUDAD DEL ESTE, ENTERED AND  
EXITED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME FROM  
LEBANON AND OTHER PARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. CORACH  
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ADDED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS CLOSE  
CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL,  
AND KEEPS "NO SECRETS" FROM THEM. MR. MACKEY THANKED  
THE MINISTER AND SAID AMBASSADOR GRANILLO OCAMPO WOULD  
BE INVITED TO TESTIFY AT THE SEPTEMBER 28 HEARING.

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NATIONAL DEPUTY MIGUEL ANGEL TOMA  
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8. (C) STAFFDEL MET WITH MIGUEL ANGEL TOMA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENSE COMMISSION IN THE CHAMBER OF  
DEPUTIES AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BICAMERAL  
INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT COMMISSION. TOMA  
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SAID JUDGE GALEANO, A GOOD MAN, LACKS THE CONFIDENCE  
OF SIDE AND OTHER SECURITY SERVICES. THIS HAS  
HINDERED SMOOTH COORDINATION OF EFFORTS IN THE AMIA  
INVESTIGATION. HE EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT AS TO WHAT  
DEGREE OF COOPERATION THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE WAS  
REALLY RECEIVING.

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TOMA SAID THE  
ARGENTINE CONGRESS IS PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION THE  
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE U.S.  
GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS, INCLUDING ISRAEL AND GERMANY.

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INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO

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9. (C) MACKEY OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY ASSURING  
GALEANO THAT THE HIRC WOULD CONDUCT THE SEPTEMBER 28  
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HEARINGS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DO NOTHING TO ENDANGER OR  
HINDER HIS INVESTIGATION. GALEANO REVIEWED THE  
PROGRESS OF HIS INVESTIGATION TO DATE, COVERING MUCH  
OF THE SAME GROUND THE STAFFDEL COVERED IN THE  
MEETINGS WITH [REDACTED] THE  
INVESTIGATING JUDGE EMPHASIZED THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER  
ARGENTINE LAW TO FOLLOW-UP ALL POSSIBLE LEADS. HE  
SAID THIS MARKEDLY INCREASED THE BURDEN ON HIS STAFF,  
AS EVEN marginally PROMISING LEADS HAD TO BE FOLLOWED,

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EVEN IF ONLY TO DISCOUNT THEM. THIS IS A SERIOUS BURDEN CONSIDERING HIS LIMITED RESOURCES, HE SAID.

10. (C) HE READILY ADMITTED THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS STAFF CAME TO THIS INVESTIGATION PREPARED FOR ITS COMPLEXITIES OR ITS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS. HE SAID THAT BEFORE THIS INVESTIGATION HE HAD BEEN THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ALWAYS PASSED OVER THE MIDDLE EAST ARTICLES IN THE NEWSPAPER WITHOUT READING THEM. YET GALEANO SAID THAT HE AND HIS SMALL TEAM WERE DOING THE BEST THAT THEY COULD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HIS SUPPORT STAFF WAS YOUNG, HARD WORKING AND DILIGENT. HE SAID FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INDISPENSABLE IN HELPING HIS INVESTIGATION MOVE FORWARD. HE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION HE HAS RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE HAVE BEEN LESS THAN TOTALLY FORTHCOMING.

11. (C) GALEANO TOLD THE STAFFDEL THAT HE HAD IN NO WAY REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN  
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THE AMIA BOMBERS AND THE IRANIAN EMBASSY.

12. (C) GALEANO SAID HE HAD INTERVIEWED MOATAMER IN CARACAS ONLY DAYS AFTER THE AMIA ATTACK. HE WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW MOATAMER AGAIN, HE SAID, NOW THAT HE HAS MUCH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE CASE.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY  
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13. (C) STAFFDEL MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE LEGAL DIVISION. MR. MACKEY SAID AMBASSADOR  
GRANILLO OCAMPO WAS WELCOME TO TESTIFY AT THE  
SEPTEMBER 28 HEARING ON TERRORISM. [REDACTED]  
SAID THAT ARGENTINA WAS COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH  
ISRAEL, THE U.S., AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO  
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THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND AMIA BOMBINGS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THAT ARGENTINA HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS  
WITH ISRAEL, LISTING A NUMBER OF VISITS AND EXCHANGES  
BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT  
HAD RESPONDED TO ALL REQUESTS MADE BY ISRAELI  
AUTHORITIES, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE ADDED  
THAT THE [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

14. (C) [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE BOMBINGS HAD SEVERELY  
DAMAGED RELATIONS WITH IRAN. FOLLOWING THE AMIA  
EXPLOSION, THERE HAD BEEN A HARD EXCHANGE OF LETTERS  
FOLLOWED BY THE RECALL OF AMBASSADORS. [REDACTED] SAID  
FLATLY THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENT  
ABSENT IRANIAN COOPERATION. THE BOMBINGS ISSUE IS  
"PARAMOUNT IN ALL CONVERSATIONS WITH IRAN." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IN RESPONSE TO A  
SPECIFIC QUESTION OF THE ROLE OF MOHSEN RABBANI, THE  
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LEGAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE, AFTER SOME RESEARCH,  
RESPONDED THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAD RULED THAT THERE  
WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ACT AGAINST RABBANI OR  
OTHER IRANIAN OFFICIALS IMPLICATED BY JUDGE GALEANO.

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15. (C) ASKED WHETHER THE BOMBINGS WERE IN REACTION  
TO ARGENTINA'S CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S. AND ISRAEL,  
[REDACTED] SAID THAT THE ATTACKS HAVE TO BE VIEWED IN THE  
CONTEXT OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT. IN HIS VIEW,  
THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARGENTINE  
GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WERE A  
FACTOR. YET [REDACTED] LATER ADDED THAT OTHERS DO MAKE  
THAT CONNECTION.

16. (U) STAFFDEL MACKEY DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO CLEAR THIS CABLE BEFORE DEPARTURE.

CHEEK

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